(c) whether the MPEDA office will be shifted to Visakhapatnam to, facilitate greater growth in marine product exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In 1933-94, 16108 Million tonnes valued at Rs. 454.11 crores were exported from Visakhapatnam Port.

. (b) In Andhra Pradesh prawn far. ming is fast developing resulting in increased exports Of Shrimp.

(c) A Regional Office of MPEDA is already functioning at Visakhapatnam.

DeeentMlising Operations of DGS&D

814. SHRI G. *Y.* KRISHAN: Will the Minister .of COMMERCE be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov ernment is to decentralise the opera tions of the Directorate General Sup. -lies & Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, the salient features there, of; and

(c) By when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TEE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) In terms of the Government decision taker, towards the end of 1991, ou the basis of a policy review undertaken with regard to centralised purchase of stores and equipments required by various Central Government Ministries | Departments through the GS&D, the work of procurement against adhoc indents has been transferred from the DGS&D and its Regional offices to various indenting Ministries [Departments alongWithith officer;: and steff dealing with the work. How-ever. DGS&D continue$_E$ to handle the proeurement of items of common use and in regHilar demand required by r more than one Central Government Ministry [Department on Rate|Funning Contract basis with the exception of POL products required by Ministry of Railways and Defence the procura-ment of which has been transferred *to* the two Ministries. Besides con- eluding Rate[Running contracts, DGS&D continues to render other services like inspection of stores, shipp-ing and clearance of stores, etc. as before. There is no proposal' at present under consideration of Government to further decentralise the functions of DGS&D.

Expanding *equity* base of MMTC and STC

815. SHRI G. Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for going to market to expand the equity base of MMTC and STC and, thereby reduce Government's stake to a minority holding; and

(b) if *so,* the reasons for Govern ment ceding the majority and how MMTC and STC are expected to beef up their capital base with a fresh eauity issue and what would be Governments share in the decanalised trade frame work?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decana- lisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to re- orient and re-structure these Corpor. ations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. The matter is under active, sctive consideration.

MPEDA's coneetration on acquaculture

816. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

fa) whether it is a fact that MPED is only concentration *on* acoqicul-' ture and neglecting marine exports: